

Message Text

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241287

FOLLOWING REPEAT KABUL 6836 SENT SECSTATE DATED OCT 30.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6836

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, AF

SUBJ: SUGGESTIONS REGARDING "NARCOTICS COUNTRY ASSESSMENT
FOR AFGHANISTAN"

REF: STATE 226822

1) EMBASSY NARCOTICS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MET OCT 27 AND
PHRASED SUGGESTIONS FOR CERTAIN ADDITIONS TO LANGUAGE REFTEL
FOR SAKE OF CLARITY ENTIRE TEXT QUOTED BELOW, WITH EMBASSY
SUGGESTIONS ENCLOSED IN PARENTHESES.

2) QUOTE. SIGNIFICANCE. AFGHANISTAN IS BOTH A MAJOR
ILLICIT PRODUCER OF OPIUM AND A KEY LINK IN THE ILLICIT
TRAFICKING CHAIN FROM PAKISTA TO IRAN. RELIABLE DATA IS
LACKING, BUT ESTIMATES OF RAW OPIUM GROWN IN AFGHANISTAN, ALL
ILLICIT, RANGE AS HIGH AS 200 TONS PER YEARS. A SMALL AMOUNT
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PROBABLY IS CONSUMED LOCALLY IN THE GROWING REGION, BUT THE

BULK OF THE CROP IS SMUGGLED ACROSS THE BORDER INTO NEIGHBORING IRAN EITHER BY CAMEL CARAVAN OR BY TRUCK. SOME OF THE OPIUM MAY ALSO BE SMUGGLED INTO IRAN BY BOAT AFTER TRANSITING PAKISTAN OR INDIA. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN ISOLATED REPORTS OF ILLICIT HEROIN CONVERSION LABORATORIES OPERATING IN AFGHANISTAN, BUT THIS IS PROBABLY A MINOR EFFORT. SMALL AMOUNTS OF OPIUM FROM AFGHANISTAN MAY ENTER INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC OUTSIDE THE REGION AND (MAY) ULTIMATELY FIND ITS WAY TO EUROPE AND THE U.S.

3) QUOTE. PROBLEM: THE MAIN PROBLEM IN AFGHANISTAN IS THE GOVERNMENT'S LIMITED POLICE ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY AND THE RUGGED TERRAIN. (WHERE ANY LAW IS CONCERNED, NARCOTICS OR OTHER, THERE ARE DEFINITE LIMITATIONS ON THE WRIT OF THE AFGHAN GOVERNMENT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. THUS WHILE THE GOA MAY WELL FIND IT WITHIN ITS RANGE OF COMPETENCE TO CONTROL NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN THE CITY OF KABUL AND CERTAIN OTHER URBAN CENTERS IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS CONTROL CAN BE EXTENDED SOON WITHIN MILES OF FIELDS HIDDEN IN MOUNTAIN VALLEYS AND UNDER THE CONTROL OF INDEPENDENT TRIBAL LEADERS.)

4) QUOTE. THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN RELATIVELY STABLE SINCE PRESIDENT DAOUD SEIZED POWER IN JULY 1973, ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN INTERMITTENT REPORTS OF POLITICAL UNEASINESS. DAOUD HAS AVOWED HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO BRING THE NARCOTICS TRAFFIC UNDER CONTROL, AND HE HAS ORDERED FULL COOPERATION WITH UN NARCOTICS CONTROL OFFICERS. UNDER AN AGREEMENT REACHED LAST NOVEMBER, UNFIDAC IS PROVIDING LIMITED ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE NARCOTICS COMPONENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. (EMBASSY KABUL'S ADVISOR FROM THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT-DEA HAS NOTED DEFINITE IMPROVEMENT IN PREVENTION OF TRAFFICKING SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE UNITED NATIONS PROGRAM IN JUNE OF 1974.)

5) QUOTE. SOME AFGHAN OFFICIALS HAVE INTIMATED THEIR EXPECTATION OF LARGE AMOUNTS OF DEVELOPMENT AID IN EXCHANGE FOR A BAN (ON CULTIVATION OF OPIUM AND CANNABIS.) (UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS HAVE MADE IT CLEAR TO THE AFGHANS...AND WE SUPPORT THE UN ON THIS...THAT IT IS ESSENTIAL TO WORK OUT A LONG RANGE PROGRAM FOR AFGHANISTAN INVOLVING PILOT PROJECTS FOR INCOME

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SUBSTITUTION, A NEW NARCOTICS LAW, AND AN OVERALL CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK BEFORE TALKING ABOUT LARGE EXPENDITURES.)

6) QUOTE. PROSPECTS: THE NARCOTICS SITUATION PROBABLY WILL REMAIN GENERALLY STATIC, AT LEAST UNTIL THE GOVERNMENT CONTROL PROGRAM IS BETTER DEVELOPED. THE GOVERNMENT APPEARS TO BE SINCERE ABOUT ITS INTENTION TO MOUNT AN EFFECTIVE ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, WHICH IS CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED

PRIMARILY UNDER THE UN UMBRELLA, AND ITS CONTROL CAPABILITY SHOULD IMPROVE AS THE RESULT OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND POSSIBLE REGIONAL COOPERATION. DESPITE THE REGIME'S AVOWED INTENTION TO BRING ILLICIT PRODUCTION AND TRAFFICKING UNDER CONTROL, HOWEVER, OTHER DOMESTIC PROBLEMS PROBABLY WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE HIGHER PRIORITY. (THE EMBASSY AT KABUL BELIEVES THAT FOR THE PRESENT TIME THE UNITED STATES ROLE IN AFGHANISTAN CAN BE BEST EXERCISED THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS, SPECIFICALLY UNFIDAC.) UNQUOTE.
ELIOT UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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